

Applicant: John G. Deshayes, *et al.*
U.S.S.N.: 09/747,179
Filing Date: December 21, 2000
EMC Docket No.: EMC-99-042

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the (Non-Final) Office Action mailed on March 30, 2004. Claims 1-48 were pending in the subject application. Claims 1-8, 19-26, and 35-40 have now been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9-10, 27-28, and 41-42 have been amended and are believed allowable over the prior art of record, as are their respective dependent claims. Reconsideration of the subject application and the new claims and allowance thereof is hereby respectfully requested.

The Specification has been objected to by the Examiner for non-compliance with 37 CFR 1.779(b). The Specification has now been amended to conform with this rule and removal of this objection is now respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 28, and 42 have been rejected for being of improper dependent form. Each of these claims has now been re-written in independent form, and removal of this objection is now respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 26, and 40 have been rejected under 35 USC 112 for being indefinite. Each of these claims has been canceled, rendering this objection moot.

Claims 1-8, 19-26, and 35-40 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. patent No. 5,673,381 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,924,097. Each of these claims have now been canceled, without prejudice, rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 9-18, 27-34, and 41-48 have been objected to. The Office Action states that "Claims 42-48 are objected to because they depend from the objected to dependent claim 41." However, the Action is silent with regard to specific reasons for objecting to Claims 9-18 and

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27-34. Applicants have taken notice of the objection form for similar in scope claims 41-48 for each of these claims, and have hereby amended Claims 9-18, 27-34, and 41-48 in similar fashion and which is believed to overcome the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requested removal of the objections to these claims.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants' believe that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of all non-canceled claims.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (508) 293-6985.

Please charge all fees occasioned by this submission to Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 25, 2004

Robert Kevin Perkins
Robert Kevin Perkins, Esq. (Reg. No. 36,634)
Attorney for Applicants
EMC Corporation
Office of General Counsel
176 South Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748
Telephone: (508) 293-6985
Facsimile: (508) 293-7189